



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

FEB 18 2016

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Building – Suite 478
Washington, D.C. 20510-3205

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

Thank you for your letter of February 1, 2016 requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency expedite its response actions to address the water supply contamination in the Village of Hoosick Falls, New York. The EPA shares your concern about the contamination problem and is placing a high priority on taking action to address it.

The EPA has met with the community and advised the public not to drink water from the Village of Hoosick Falls public water supply, or use it for cooking, until the granular activated carbon treatment system is installed at the municipal water plant and confirmed by the New York State Department of Health to be properly removing the PFOA from the water supply. Installation of the temporary treatment system and design of the permanent system are currently underway. The temporary treatment system is expected to be operational later this month. The EPA has also issued a statement recommending that residents of the Town of Hoosick and Village of Hoosick Falls with private wells at which PFOA has been found at a level greater than 100 parts per trillion, or whose wells have not yet been tested by the New York State Department of Health, not use their well water for drinking or cooking. Free bottled water paid for by Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics Co. is available for these private well owners and the Hoosick Falls municipal water system customers. The EPA will continue to provide information to the community on an ongoing basis.

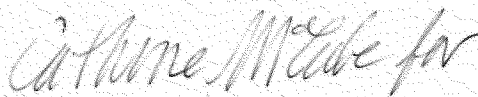
In addition, Governor Cuomo recently announced that the state has begun planning for a possible alternate water supply in the Village of Hoosick Falls, ensuring that the community has a new, permanent supply of clean water. This would be in addition to the long-term carbon filtration system Saint-Gobain has agreed to install.

The EPA is working actively with both the New York State Departments of Health and Environmental Conservation to coordinate our respective investigative and remedial efforts, ensure that accurate information is provided to the public, and effectively address the contamination problem in as expedited a fashion as possible.

The EPA has begun collecting soil samples in the ballfields that are adjacent to the municipal water treatment plant, and in other nearby properties. In addition, in response to a January 14, 2016 request from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Acting Commissioner Seggos, EPA is gathering information that will be used to evaluate the site for inclusion on the National Priorities List of Superfund sites. We are also conducting investigations to identify the parties responsible for the contamination.

If you have further questions, please contact me at (212) 637-5000 or your staff may contact Michael J. McGowan, Chief for the Intergovernmental and Community Affairs Branch, at (212) 637-4972.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Judith A. Enck for".

Judith A. Enck
Regional Administrator

cc: Commissioner Howard Zucker, New York State Department of Health
Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation